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Embassy staffing

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE July 29, 1969

SUBJECT: Meeting on Reopening of Mission in Phnom Penh

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Cross
Mr. Corcoran
Mr. Walker Smith
Mr. Rives
Mr. Bennett

COPIES TO:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Sanbley DATE 10/9/80

RDS or XDS TEXT, DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. ETA of staff. Pat Derus will arrive in Phnom Penh August 21. Orders will be issued for Kurtzman (C & R) so that he can proceed from Saigon to Phnom Penh around the 15th to 20th. Bangkok has not yet been notified of Pedonti's transfer; this will be done when a replacement can be named. Pedonti should be able to arrive by the time Elden Erickson leaves (beginning of September).
2. Assignment and funding of Press Attaché (Political). This position was not included in the budget submission. Mr. Smith indicated it cannot now be added. It was agreed tentatively to postpone assignment of a senior political officer in order to accommodate a junior political officer with the title Press Attaché. This will leave 8 State Department positions in Stage III: the chargé, two secretaries, two C & R personnel, two administrative officers, and one political officer.
3. Budget submission. O insists that the budget and reopening of the post be approved by Rep. Rooney and his committee before we proceed. Mr. Cross and Mr. Corcoran pointed out that the reopening has been directed by the President, and that the budget procedures cannot be allowed to delay reopening. Mr. Smith was provided a copy of the memorandum approved by the President, which had been cleared by O and other members of the New Posts Committee.

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4. Housing and office space. If the Chargé is obliged to work out of a hotel while quarters are made ready, a suite can be authorized to provide adequate space. Elden Erickson is being asked to provide the data necessary to obtain an increase in the present \$12 per diem rate, and to set a rate for temporary lodging allowance.

5. Furnishings. China, silverware, glassware, kitchen equipment, etc., for a DCM residence will be supplied.

6. Vehicles. Three vehicles - a principal officer's car, a jeep, and a truck - are on order. Rental of a vehicle will be authorized pending their arrival. A report from Elden will be needed to obtain a waiver permitting the shipment of foreign-made vehicles by personnel assigned by Phnom Penh.

7. Supporting post. Manila handles financial functions for Hong Kong, so the latter will not be feasible as a supporting post for Phnom Penh. On the basis of experience before the Embassy closed in 1965, Phnom Penh will have to do its own disbursing. It will look to Bangkok for help on procurement, shipping, etc.

8. Equipment. Basic equipment (stationery, rubber stamps, flags, etc.) will be ordered immediately and will be available in Bangkok by the time the Chargé arrives.

9. Credentials. EA/EX will follow up on the preparation of the necessary note or letter to be presented by the Chargé after arrival.

10. R & R policy. This will be decided after the Chargé's arrival and receipt of his recommendations. The same applies to the hardship differential (now 20 or 25 percent on basis of pre-1965 experience).

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